

CHAPTER XXV

THE BARNES TRIAL

A SUPEEME test of Roosevelt's fidelity to Ms
fessions and principles was made in 1915,

he
emerged triumphantly. In the course of his
of
a Progressive ticket in the State campaign of
1914, he had
published, on July 22, 1914, a statement in
which he
that the rottenness which existed in the
government of the
State was due directly to the dominance in
politics of the
leader of Tammany Hall and his sub-bosses
abetted by William Barnes, the leader of the
organization; that there was an invisible of
party bosses working through an alliance
between
bosses and crooked politicians. On the
following
23, Mr. Barnes brought a suit for libel
against
basing it on this utterance. Roosevelt
welcomed the
with a statement in which he reaffirmed his
declared his eagerness to have its truth
tested in
The suit was set down for trial in Albany, the of
Barnes, but, on October 25, Roosevelt's counsel

for
a change of venue on the ground that Barnes
's
political control in Albany made a fair trial
impossible. The Albany court denied the

an
appeal was taken to the Appellate Division of
the
Court and that court reversed the decision of
the
court and granted the request, assigning as
the
place of trial.

From the moment that the suit was brought
the
enemies of Roosevelt assumed joyfully that lie
it and that it would result in his political rain.
Mr.
was the most bitter and implacable of these

he
had been induced to bring the suit by a legal
who